

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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September 2022

Outstanding Service

Retired Library Director Marylyn Haddican is recognized by the Jefferson Parish Council

by Anna Campos

Marylyn Haddican, who retired this spring as director of the East Bank Regional Library, literally dedicated her entire career in librarianship to the Jefferson Parish Library System. She began working as a page when she was a young mother and went on to get a degree in Library Science from LSU. She worked her way up the ladder, serving as a branch manager, circulation manager for the system, and head of training for the IT department. This gave her a unique outlook, and an intimate knowledge of the needs of the system and its employees. If a patron praised the work of a librarian, she saw to it that it was publicly acknowledged. She frequently mentioned that she wanted to upgrade the payscale for library employees.

When Marylyn became director, there were many branches in need of renovation or replacement. During her years as director, this work was completed or is now in progress. The East Bank Regional Library even got a gas generator! Not to protect the books, Marylyn was quick to point out, but to make it possible for patrons to use the internet services of the library during power outages. Even a brief conversation with her revealed how much she cared about the library's mission, and how hard she worked to fulfill it. She will be hard to replace.

In recognition of her devotion to JPL libraries, Jennifer Van Vrancken presented Marylyn with a proclamation from the Jefferson Parish Council.



Council member Jennifer Van Vrancken, left, presents outgoing Library Director Marylyn Haddican with a proclamation from the Jefferson Parish Council at the annual Friends of the Library Volunteer Luncheon. Photo by Irene Lunkin.

If you are reading a print copy of this newsletter and would like to receive it online, send an e-mail to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. In the subject line, write "Subscribe Newsletter."

We find good homes for used books.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

(a member of United for Libraries, the
Association of Library Trustees,
Advocates, Friends, and Foundations)

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Anna Campos

Mission

The Friends of the Jefferson Public
Library is an independent, nonprofit
organization of civic-minded volunteers.
We support the Jefferson Parish Library
by promoting library awareness, providing
needed unbudgeted items for all its branches
through fund raising, and
participating in literacy programs.

Address and Phone

P. O. Box 9391
Metairie, LA 70055
504-455-BOOK (2665)

Web Site

<http://www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org/>

Friends Trends

Editors: Anna Campos, Annette
Centanni

Contributing Editor: Peg Phelps

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie

"Planting for Fall Interest"

Guest Speaker: Tammany Baumgarten

Master Gardener, LSU AgCenter
and Licensed Louisiana
Horticulturist



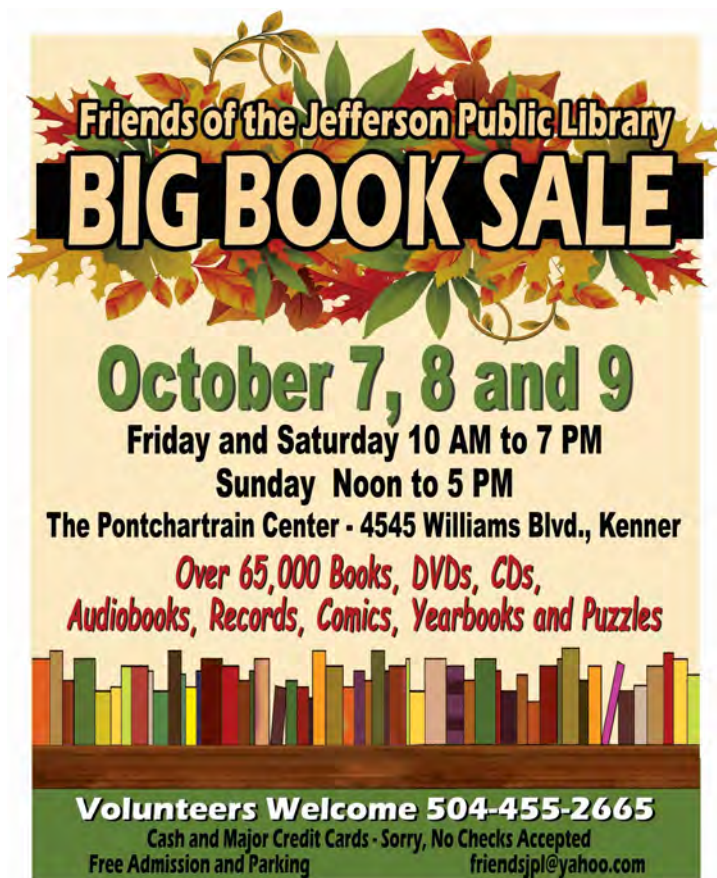
Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
on October 7-9 at the Pontchartrain Center

P. O. Box 9391, Metairie, Louisiana friendsjpl@yahoo.com 504-455-2665

Gaylord Boxes

The book sale committee is looking for used
Gaylord boxes for packing books after the sale. If
anyone can sell or donate these to us, please call
504-455-2665 or e-mail FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com.
Gaylord boxes must be in usable condition.

Thank you!



Friends of the Jefferson Public Library
BIG BOOK SALE

October 7, 8 and 9
 Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM
 Sunday Noon to 5 PM

The Pontchartrain Center - 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner

Over 65,000 Books, DVDs, CDs,
 Audiobooks, Records, Comics, Yearbooks and Puzzles

Volunteers Welcome 504-455-2665
 Cash and Major Credit Cards - Sorry, No Checks Accepted
 Free Admission and Parking friendsjpl@yahoo.com

Judy Welcker is Volunteer of the Year

by Peg Phelps (edited for Friends Trends by Anna Campos)



Judy Welcker, left, shares a hug with Peg Phelps as she is honored as Volunteer of the Year. Photo by Meade Phelps.

In the ten years she has been a member of the Friends, Judy has worked in many capacities. She helps with sorting and is equally adept at scanning and at using the computer to check books. She graciously took the job of vice-president when the elected office holder was unable to finish out her term of office. This job finds her arranging venues and speakers for our general meetings. As the Hospitality Chair, Judy organizes the food and all the necessary supplies for every General Meeting, Book Sale Coffee, and all during the Book Sale. She and her husband have even become adept at making sandwiches and putting them in Baggies! She also arranges for our yearly volunteer luncheons.

Judy handles all this with aplomb, and is always willing to take on any new task asked of her.




The Friends Need You!

Renew Your Dues or Become a Member

On-Line:
friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org
 or Call:
 504-455-2665



Rose Bradford and Diane Pittman are named Friends of Distinction

Photos by Meade Phelps



Rose Bradford, left, is presented with the Friends of Distinction Award by Patricia Cox.

Since 1999, Rose Bradford has worked as a Friends Store volunteer—through 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, COVID, Ida, leaky ceilings, painting and carpeting. Her work as a store volunteer is always impeccable, her receipts are always in order and always correct to the penny! A gentle woman, she quietly gets the job done.

This honor is two years overdue as Rose was a nominee in 2020 before everything was shut down for COVID.

(This article was written by Patricia Cox and edited for Friends Trends by Anna Campos.)

*"A library contains the diary
of the human race."*

George Mercer Dawson



Annette Centanni, left, presents the Friends of Distinction Award to Diane Pittman.

Diane was awarded this honor for both her longevity in service and for her steadfastness in being a faithful Friend. Diane started out in Sorting more than 13 years ago, then graduated to scanning bar codes, pricing and packing. During book sales, she mans the Collectibles area. Recently, she has become a valuable lister on the Amazon team.

(Written by Annette Centanni.)

NOTICE: The Online Sales department is still in need of egg cartons—any size, foam or cardboard.

The Box Award

by Anna Campos



From left, Marylyn Haddican, Jack Young, Sharon Simmons, Greg Breerwood and Michele Thomassie pose with their Box Awards, Photo by Meade Phelps.

The Box Award is given to recognize those whose service to the Friends is above and beyond the normal. Therefore, they literally or figuratively move a tremendous amount of the Friends' boxes and/or books. Judy Zawislak received the first Box Award (a soft sculpture) in 2015. Joan Fontaine created the pottery "boxes" that have been awarded in the years since.



We're on FACEBOOK!!!

Check out the "Friends of the Jefferson Public Library" Facebook page!

"Like" us on Facebook to get our reminders and updates on the latest happenings and Friends events!



Like us on
Facebook

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library **WIN A QUILT!**

Enter for a chance to win this
unique fleur-de-lis handmade quilt!



Approximately 3' x 4 1/4'

**Tickets available in the Friends' Store
in the East Bank Regional Library
504-455-2665**

Only \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Drawing will be October 9, 2022 at 3 pm



You shop. Amazon gives.

Shop at smile.amazon.com and
Amazon will make a donation to:
**Friends of the
Jefferson Public Library.**

Go to smile.amazon.com and choose the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library, Metairie, LA as your charity. Amazon will donate .5% of all your sales to the Friends!



Photos from the Volunteer Luncheon

Meade Phelps documented all the events and people at the Volunteer Luncheon. Below are some of the highlights:



Above: outgoing Friends President Diane Schleifstein devised a clever way of inducting/reinstalling board members: a puzzle to which each person added a piece.



We find good homes for used books.

The Best Laid Plans....You Know How It Goes

by Peg Phelps; photos by Anna Campos

Editor's note: During the Pandemic, the Friends had to cancel five book sales. But the books kept coming in! The Friends found a dealer who would take them, but they had to be in boxes on wooden pallets. This is the story of how this was accomplished.

The weekend of January 15-16, 2022, was targeted as a weekend of palletizing boxes of books to be sent to Thrift Books for sale on consignment. These were the books that were supposed to be sold at the Big Book Sale in October of 2021. The plan was to palletize on Saturday, with the help of several Friends volunteers and six high school boys who needed service hours. The pallets were to be prepared for a scheduled pick up by an 18-wheeler on Monday, January 17. Since Monday was a holiday, we could put the pallets anywhere in the back of the library, since there would not be employees there that day. Ah, ha—the best laid plans...

The first glitch came when we measured the



Left, a Friends bin full of books to be palletized. Right, palletized books waiting to be loaded onto the Thrift Books truck.

pallets we had been collecting from around Metairie for the last few months, and discovered that for eight of our pallets, there was not enough space between the top and the bottom of the pallet for our manual pallet lifter. Apparently these pallets were

made for an automated pallet lifter! Lou Zawislak came to the rescue, repairing some of the correctly-sized broken pallets we had set aside.

The second interruption to our best laid plans was when it started to rain shortly after lunch. We had only finished packing ten pallets, with six more to go, and none of the young men were available to help on Sunday. We agreed that the Friends' volunteers would return at 10 AM and do what we could before we were all completely exhausted. Fortunately, Peg's daughter, Jenny, came to the rescue, finding us three very hard working boys from Brother Martin High School.

On her first trip out to the loading dock, Peg noticed that both of the loading bays were occupied by trucks belonging to the library. This glitch was beyond our control, but several e-mails and calls to library director Marylyn Haddican resulted in one of the library employees coming out on Sunday morning and moving a truck to a different parking spot.

So far, we had been able to overcome all the problems, but the next incident was out of our control. We discovered on Sunday morning that a telephone pole had been knocked down overnight, and was blocking York Street at the corner of Harvard Avenue, which is the only access to the loading dock at the library. Since that Monday was a holiday, we were not sure if the pole would be repaired right away or not. On Monday, several nervous trips to that corner were taken by Meade, Peg, and Judy, trying to ascertain whether the pole would be repaired by the time the truck arrived, which was scheduled between noon and 5 pm on Monday. All of the workers were very nice, and worked as fast as they could. Perhaps the fact that the telephone lines went to Tulane Lakeside Hospital also helped. By around 2 pm, the repairs were almost made. Judy went looking for the truck, and came upon Lazar, the driver, who was walking around trying to find a way that he could access the loading dock. This was when our

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We find good homes for used books.

Palletizing

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tradition of Louisiana hospitality paid off. We brought him to the sorting room and gave him cake and coffee, all the while begging him to wait about 20 minutes, which was the amount of time the workers at the corner were estimating for job completion. Lazar was kind enough to wait, and the repairs were finally finished. Judy even went down and helped the work crew pick up their orange cones. One more obstacle remained, when a pickup truck belonging to two men who were surveying the parking lot was blocking the way. Peg was able to get the men to park that truck in another location, and Lazar pulled right in.

Loading the truck was supposed to be done by our group, so Meade and Lou started pushing the pallets into the truck. Lazar was overheard telling his girlfriend that he had to go help the “two old men,” as he didn’t think they could do it without help. Lazar did pitch in, and the truck was loaded with 22 pallets of books. Each pallet had 55 boxes of books on it. One more cake and coffee break was needed be-



Left, Lou Zawislak, Meade Phelps and driver Lazar move a pallet onto the Thrift truck.

Right, Jack Young and Chris deVillasana unload boxes for palletizing.

fore the job was done, and then Lazar was off to deliver about 1200 boxes of books to the Thrift Books warehouse in Dallas.



These incidents just go to prove the veracity of Robert Burns’ poem “To a Mouse”: “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men/ Gang aft agley.”

In the end, with the help of many people, and perhaps despite our best-laid plans, we succeeded in palletizing the boxes and loading the truck.



A Little Library in Basel

It’s a worldwide phenomenon! This Little Library in Basel, Switzerland, was photographed by Anna Campos.



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

September, 2022 The Shadow Knows and Tells All

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers!

I don't know about you, but I have been looking forward to Fall and to the next Big Book Sale. It will be held on October 7th through the 9th. The contract has been signed with the Pontchartrain Center, the deposit has been made, and 2,000 boxes of books are ready to go. Also, Indefatigable co-chairs **Judy Zawislak** and **Peg Phelps** have been gearing up. The phone has been ringing off the hook at the Center, and Friends have been spreading the word. We are thus hoping for a spectacular event!

In the meantime, life has been going on at the Sorting Center as it always does *between* book sales. There are two new volunteers, **Nancy Carollo**, retired office manager who is learning the ropes as a sorter, and **Betty Small**, retired legal secretary who sorts and substitutes at the Store as well. Both are fitting right in. **Michael Rodan**, relatively new volunteer, is doing very well, also. I recently heard some veteran volunteers chatting about him after he had left one Tuesday. It seems his quiet, efficient way of working is making a big dent on the everlasting pile in the middle of the floor. Apparently, too, he's in the habit of flipping through the books as he sorts. Recently he found nearly \$100 in bills in a book!

Celebration Station! There was a lot of celebrating this summer, some at the Center, some not.

Peg and Meade Phelps celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They renewed their vows on a

Saturday afternoon at their church.

During the 1st week of August, **Aileen Janney** celebrated her 90th birthday. A friend of hers brought a cake in to surprise her. Funny, I remember when **Aileen** celebrated her 80th birthday with us, but it doesn't seem as long ago as ten years!

Marie and Greg Breerwood celebrated the



Left, Aileen Janney shows off the puppy socks Rose Catalanotto gave her for her birthday. Photo by Anna Campos.

birth of a gorgeous, new granddaughter, **Elsie McKenzie O'Brien Breerwood**. They flew all the way to Maine to see her. **Marie** reports she is alert, active, and already very much a participant in life. While they were in Maine, the **Breerwoods** also visited with **Judy** and **Lou Zawislak**, who were vacationing in Bar Harbor.

There is always a celebration at the lunch table whenever there is a cake or other home-baked goodie. This summer, **Rose Catalanotto** and **Michele Thomassie** joined the ranks of the resident bakers, **Anna Campos**, **Will Hunn** and **Peg Phelps**. All offerings are always happily relished and greatly appreciated.

Mahjong Program. Past President **Diane Schleifstein** spent many hours over the summer teaching Mahjong at the Library. The response to her program was overwhelming--there were 32 perma-

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We find good homes for used books.

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nent participants during June and July. One day when I came in late, I saw that **Diane** had actually expanded her program into the Sorting Center. There was a gathering around the lunch table where **Diane** was giving a gratis, bird's eye overview of how to play the game.

As **Telling-Tales-Out-Of-School** is a specialty of mine, I have a tale told by **Anna and Robert Campos**, also around the lunch table, and reported to me by one of my faithful elves. Recently, **Anna** lost her engagement ring while gardening. Thinking it had to be somewhere in their backyard, **Robert** invested in a metal detector and combed the entire yard for it. He found nails, pennies and other metal items, but no ring. They were both heartbroken, since the ring has been on her finger for over 50 years. Sometime later, while he was cutting the front lawn, **Robert** spied something glittering on the cement at the edge of the driveway. Further investigation turned up **Anna's** ring! Now she keeps it safe in her jewelry box whenever she works in the garden.

Taking it all seriously. Recently-elected President, **Marie Orth** has been visiting the Sorting Center and asking questions from those-who-know, to acquaint herself with the many endeavors of the volunteers. She brings a lot of energy to the scene, and as a bonus, she has been keeping board meetings to a manageable one hour or less. Good job, **Marie!**

Our new Corresponding Secretary, **Collette Ricaud**, has been doing the same in order to get all Thank You letters to significant donors and Get Well or Sympathy cards out to recipients in a timely fashion. Thank you for your service and for all of your good will, **Collette.**

On the Amazon front, the number of books sold online during July, nearly 100 a week, produced a net profit of \$5,016.00. Those **Amazon listers** and **packers** work hard, and really know their business!

The printer used by recently-deceased coordinator of the Italian-American Genealogical Society, **Sal Serio**, has been gifted to the Friends. **Sal** always had a fondness for the Friends, and wished us to have his printer. It will mainly be used by the Amazon sector.

In other news, recently, Amazon was gifted with a Peter Lik fine arts photo book weighing over 100 pounds! Since its receipt, it has been kept on a



Above, two recent donations to the Friends: Sal Serio's printer and an oversize Peter Lik book. Photos by Anna Campos.

rolling dolly, with the Amazon crew working around it and trying to decide how best to sell it. When **President Marie Orth** found out about it at a board meeting and described it to her husband, **Harvey Orth** expressed a strong interest in the book. At the following board meeting, **Marie** thrilled all of us with her offer purchase it to "surprise" him with it for his birthday. Of course, now **Harvey** will have to come and pick up his own present in his truck!

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We find good homes for used books.

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At the Store. Store manager **Patricia Cox** had quite a lot of news to share with us. Volunteer **Audrey Munoz** has returned to duty after nearly a two-year hiatus. She slipped back into her sales position as smoothly as if she had never missed a day.

"Inflation has arrived at the Store," **Patricia** admitted. "The only 50-cent items are those in the \$.50 basket. The minimum book price is now \$.75! But," she added, "we are still the *biggest* bargain around."

Patricia also reported, "Don't know if it was Spring Fever or graduation, but **Sandra Blount** and **Susan Young** had a combined \$350 day shortly before Mother's Day. That's always a cause for celebration."

The Store's newest volunteer, **Sarah Morris**, had a very exciting first day on the job. When her first customer, **George Groetschz**, came in to buy one of our NOLA Afghans, she had the pleasant task of telling him that the throw was free. It was the 2,000th Afghan to be sold!



Left, George Groetsch stands next to the display afghan hanging in front of the Friends Store. Mr. Groetsch owns an afghan and purchased the 2000th NOLA Afghan for a friend. Photo by Patricia Cox.

Patricia confided that she thought the Store would have reached 2,000 sales a year-and-a-half ago, but with COVID and Ida's closures, it took longer. No matter, **Patricia**. According to this **Shadow's** calculation, you and your volunteers have sold \$80,000 worth of the incomparable afghans in the last 13.5 years. **Kudos to All of You!**

Dear Readers, you are now up-to-date on all of my news. See you at the sale, where we will have fun making lots more!

Your friendly **Shadow**



Worth a thousand words

When Sandra Blount returned to the Sorting Center after being on the injured list for a while, she found a surprise waiting for her in her work area: Susan Ward had made a large, colorful sign to welcome her back. Everyone was **really** glad to see Sandra because she answers the phone for us when she is there. Her school secretary experience makes her really good at it! Photo by Anna Campos.

What's cooking at the Friends?

This is from Treasurer Peg Phelps:

Cheater's Pound Cake

1 box yellow cake mix
4 large eggs, beaten
1 cup sour cream
1/3 cup oil (canola or sunflower)
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon almond extract

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
Grease and flour the bottom
and all sides of a Bundt pan
or two 4 X 9 inch loaf pans.

Combine cake mix, eggs, sour
cream, oil, sugar, and water,
and beat with electric mixer
for 2 minutes (or 3 minutes by hand). Stir in the vanilla and almond extracts.



Peg Phelps

Pour into prepared pan(s) and bake (45 to 50 minutes for Bundt, 35-40 minutes for loaf pans), or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Do not over-bake!! Cool in pan(s) for 30 minutes before inverting onto a serving plate. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar or serve with berries and whipped cream, if desired.

HAVE a recipe you'd like to share? E-mail a copy to camposanna@hotmail.com. Include a photo if you can.

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